(d) Various steps including close monitoring, follow up and corrective action are taken.

[Translation]

Blackmarketing of Railway Tickets in Bombay

*412. SHRI RAM YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether blackmarketing in reservation of tickets is going on at Bombay Central, Bombay VT and Kalyan railway stations;

(b) if so, the number of raids conducted at the said stations during the last three years;

(c) the number of persons arrested and the action taken or proposed to be taken against them; and

(d) the steps being taken to check blackmarketing of tickets there?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Some touts indulging in malpractices, mostly in busy seasons, have come to notice.

(b) During the last three years, 199 raids were conducted.

(c) 1410 persons were apprehended during the raids and most of them were prosecuted.

(d) The measures being taken by the Railways include computerisation of reservation, increasing the frequency of checks and raids, vigorous publicity campaign through different media and making the legal provisions more deterrent.

[English]

Ticketless Travel

*413. SHRI AMAL DATTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment of the number of passengers travelling without tickets in the suburban services of Calcutta and Howrah;

(b) if so, the details of the assessment made and the field studies on which this is based; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to prevent ticketless travel?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b). While the extent of ticketless travel on the suburban sections of Calcutta area is not quantifiable, regular checks to detect irregular travel are being made to contain this unsocial practice.

(c) The measures taken to curb ticketless travel include surprise/magisterial checks from time to time, publicity campaigns through different media and deterrent penalties incorporated in the new Railways Act.

Rajdhani Express from Delhi to Madras

*414. SHRI C. K. KUPPUSWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the North-South route linking Delhi and Madras has been fully electrified;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to introduce Rajdhani Express from Delhi to Madras;